IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the purification of ~~an~~ inorganic salt ~~containing an~~ comprising at least one organic material, which process comprises ~~granulating or~~ chemically treating and/or granulating a powdered inorganic salt ~~containing an~~ comprising at least one organic material to obtain a chemically-treated and/or granulated inorganic salt,

and then ~~subjecting~~ heat treating the chemically-treated and/or granulated inorganic salt, ~~material to heat treatment.~~

wherein the average equivalent sphere diameter of the granulated inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material is from 1 to 100 mm, and

wherein the chemical treatment enhances the efficiency of the removal of the organic material during the heat treating step and/or acts as a binder for the powdered inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material during the granulating step.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the powdered inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material is granulated and the density of ~~said~~ the granulated ~~powder of~~ inorganic salt ~~containing an organic material~~ is not lower than 70% of the true density of inorganic salt in said inorganic salt ~~containing an~~ comprising at least one organic material.

Claim 3 (Canceled):

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the powdered inorganic salt

comprising at least one organic material is granulated and the crushing strength of ~~said~~ the granulated ~~powder of~~ inorganic salt ~~containing an organic material~~ is not lower than 5 kg.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the heat treatment temperature is not lower than 400°C.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the heat treatment temperature is not higher than the melting point of the inorganic salt in said inorganic salt ~~containing an~~ comprising at least one organic material.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the heat treatment ~~involves~~ comprises the use of a rotary kiln.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the heat treatment is ~~effected~~ carried out on a moving bed ~~(shaft kiln)~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic salt in said inorganic salt ~~containing an~~ comprising at least one organic material comprises a halide of alkaline metal and/or halide of alkaline earth metal.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic salt in said inorganic salt ~~containing an~~ comprising at least one organic material is sodium chloride.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 10, wherein said sodium chloride ~~is one containing~~ comprises ethylenamine produced by a dichloroethane process for the preparation of ethylenamine which comprises reacting dichloroethane with ammonia to produce an ethylenamine compound.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 10, wherein said sodium chloride is ~~one~~ produced as a by-product ~~by~~ of a process for the production of epichlorohydrin.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the powdered inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material is granulated, and the process further comprises ~~wherein~~ dissolving the granulated and heat-treated ~~powder of~~ inorganic salt ~~containing an organic material which has been granulated and heat-treated is dissolved~~ in water to form a solution A, and then ~~filtered~~ filtering said solution A.

Claim 14 (Canceled):

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the powdered inorganic salt

comprising at least one organic material is chemically-treated and said chemical treatment ~~involves the~~ comprises mixing ~~of~~ said powdered inorganic salt ~~containing an~~ comprising at least one organic material with at least one ~~an~~ alkali and/or at least one oxidizing agent to form a mixture.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 15, wherein said alkali comprises ~~a~~ at least one hydroxide of alkaline metal and/or at least one hydroxide of alkaline earth metal.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 16, wherein said alkali is at least one selected from the group consisting of lithium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the heat treatment temperature is not lower than 200°C.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the heat treatment temperature is not higher than the melting point of the inorganic salt in said inorganic salt ~~containing an~~ comprising at least one organic material.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the heat treatment ~~involves~~ comprises the use of a rotary kiln.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the heat treatment is ~~effected~~ carried out on a fluidized bed.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the heat treatment is ~~effected~~ carried out on a moving bed ~~(shaft kiln)~~.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 15, ~~wherein~~ further comprising

granulating said mixture.

~~said powder of inorganic salt containing an organic material is mixed with an alkali and/or oxidizing agent, and then granulated.~~

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the inorganic salt in said inorganic salt ~~containing an~~ comprising at least one organic material comprises ~~a~~ at least one halide of alkaline metal and/or at least one halide of alkaline earth metal.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the inorganic salt in said inorganic salt ~~containing an~~ comprising at least one organic material is sodium chloride.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 25, wherein said sodium chloride ~~is one containing~~ comprises ethylenamine produced by a dichloroethane process for the preparation of ethylenamine which comprises reacting dichloroethane with ammonia to produce an ethylenamine compound.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 25, wherein said sodium chloride is ~~one~~ produced as a by-product ~~by~~ of a process for the production of epichlorohydrin.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The process ~~for the purification of an inorganic salt containing an organic material~~ according to Claim 15, ~~wherein~~ further comprising

dissolving the chemically-treated and heat-treated ~~powder of~~ inorganic salt ~~containing an organic material which has been heat-treated is dissolved~~ in water to form a solution B, and then ~~filtered~~

filtering said solution B.

Claim 29 (Canceled):

Claim 30 (New): The process according to Claim 23, wherein the powdered inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material is granulated and the process further comprises

dissolving the granulated, chemically-treated and heat-treated inorganic salt in water to form a solution C, and then

filtering said solution C.

Claim 31 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the average equivalent sphere diameter of the granulated inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material is from 18 mm to 90 mm.